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U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/787753

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/IB99/01494INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
02 September 1999PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
21 September 1998TITLE OF INVENTION
METHOD OF IMPROVING SECURITY IN ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US ABAD-PEIRO, Jose-Luis, and STOLZE, Markus

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☐ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☐ Other items or information:

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/7787753	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
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21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE: (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$1000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO. \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =	CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">\$ 860.00</td> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	\$ 860.00																		
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Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +																				
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a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-0510 in the amount of \$ 940.00 to cover the above fees.
 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

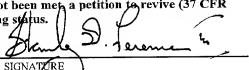
c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
 overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0510. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card
 information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR
 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

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 NAME
 33,879
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

METHOD OF IMPROVING SECURITY IN ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS

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Background of the Invention

This invention relates to methods of improving security in transacting electronic commerce. More specifically, the invention defines a framework which enables trusted brokers running in an insecure network such as the Internet to offer more secure payment facilities.

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Electronic commerce is based on the electronic exchange of items, one of the typical exchanges is an electronic payment but it may also be a digitally signed contract. An important requirement for security in the exchange of items is fairness. An exchange is fair if, at the end of the transaction, either party receives the item he expected, neither party receives it, or each party obtains a legally binding receipt of the transaction which can be submitted to a third party for resolution, in the event that the received item does not meet expectations. At present, such commerce is typically conducted directly between a user and a merchant (of course, with the intervention of a bank in obtaining payment), representing a direct point-to-point contact on the Internet. In the context of electronic commerce, transactions or exchanges may be carried out over insecure networks. Unfortunately, it is possible for a hacker to exploit vulnerabilities in protocols and applications or to corrupt systems used by the other party. Therefore, carefully designed exchange protocols are used to help guarantee security in electronic commerce transactions. The Secure Socket Layer or "SSL" secure communication protocol, introduced by Netscape in 1994, is an example of such a protocol. This protocol provides encryption and authentication between web browsers and servers, such as between users and merchants, and is characterized by requiring very little processing power to utilize. SSL is commonly used for sending encrypted credit card numbers over the Internet. A substantially more secure payment protocol, requiring significantly greater computing power, was introduced by Mastercard, VISA, and others in February, 1996 (upgraded in June, 1996). This protocol is known as the Secure Electronic Transaction or "SET" protocol. Its purpose

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is to provide confidentiality of information, ensure payment integrity, and authenticate both merchants and cardholders. The current computing requirements for implementing the SET protocol make it inappropriate as a protocol for shopper/users to run directly from their browser. If such were used by the user, for example, in downloading an applet, downloading times and performance losses would likely increase to unacceptable levels.

Further, unless the user has some mechanism of fair exchange, the user must trust the merchant, an entity with whom the user may not have had dealings and about which he is only able to obtain information from the merchant himself. The justifiable lack of trust in a merchant-server's self certification (e.g., the fear of merchant fraud) tends to limit the growth and acceptability of electronic commerce. Therefore, even when organizations use the SET protocol to perform payment functions, the user's lack of anonymity is a disadvantage.

The prior art describes various attempts at improving security. These attempted solutions fall into two categories: (1) third party protocols which make use of a trusted, on-line third party who is typically registered as such by a neutral entity, and (2) gradual exchange protocols in which the probability of obtaining a fair exchange is gradually increased over several rounds of communications. In common commercial terms, this latter protocol is comparable to a "course of dealing" between the parties involved in the exchange. In the trusted third party approach, organizations managing a trusted third party must conform to a number of requirements. For example, a trusted third party may be required to (1) meet minimum financial criteria, (2) to possess insurance against fraud, and (3) be socially credible. Proper adherence to and implementation of these requirements ensures that information disclosed by users to a trusted third party is handled in a secure manner.

In US A 5592 375 a system for brokering goods or services between buyers and sellers is described whereby the buyer is provided an aid in selecting among the variety of products. The buyer and the seller are connected to computers via a brokering system including a database, a customers interface and a buyers interface. The buyers interface provides a knowledge based interactive protocol enabling the buyer to select and review the respective information from the database. The session between the buyer and his client is rendered secure by using the identification of the buyer and some security information. The system can be particularly used for assisting an employer in hiring.

EP A 0854 462 discloses a system with a broker server which is arranged in between a customer and a merchant and a method of trading in two steps including sending electronic money from the consumer to broker's server and from the brokers, to the merchant. Cryptography maybe used to transmit and receive data for achieving confidence and authentication.

The prior art solutions have shortcomings. For example, the third party method runs the risk of the third party becoming a bottleneck due to the fact that a

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single trusted third party may be asked to serve as such in a number of widely varying transactions.

Alternate fair-exchange protocols involve the use of third party servers in exceptional circumstances, such as in the case of disputes. For example, both parties agree on the items to be exchanged and which third party to use in case of an exception. This is known as the optimistic approach to using a third party. Only the risk-taking party (the originator) may invoke the third party (due to the customer being unsatisfied with the bought merchandise). The merchant may also complain as well (e.g., regarding an invalid check). Thus, this method helps overcome the traditional risk of the trusted third party becoming a bottle neck, but limits the recourse of the other party. Other approaches have used an overall time limit parameter which ensures that, should the risk-taking party not invoke the third party, the other party will be able to resolve the transaction.

Other methods have been developed with varying degrees of effectiveness. Most either lack sufficient effectiveness, do not provide anonymity, or require substantial processing time or processing power on the part of the parties involved.

Therefore, what is needed is a method of improving the security of an electronic exchange (with both fair exchange and anonymity of the user) which does not require excessive processor time or increase the hardware requirements of the user.

Summary of the Invention

A computerized method of transacting electronic commerce in an insecure network is provided which improves data security in the insecure network. The method operates on and between a user which has established a commercial relationship with a trusted third party, and merchants. The method utilizes network links between (1) the user and the trusted third party broker and (2) the trusted third party broker and the merchants. The method further utilizes protocols which are

selected, at least in part, on the basis of the computer resources which may be expected to be available in each network link. Applying this method, a user can use a protocol requiring less computer resources than those required by SET, but at the same time, maintaining acceptable security levels through the use of the SET protocol by the trusted third party broker.

In a feature of the invention, the computerized method includes the steps of (a) permitting the user, using a browser and a low resource-intensive protocol to access the trusted third party broker in order to request broker services; (b) the trusted third party broker gathering information from web servers of the merchants offering competitive products which the broker believes may satisfy the user's request; (c) the browser presenting an interactive window to the user which allows the user to compare differences between the competitive products and choose between the competitive products; (d) the user choosing between the competitive products, thus selecting a merchant and issuing a payment order through the trusted third party broker for the benefit of the merchant; (e) the trusted third party broker transmitting the payment order to the merchant using a highly secure payment protocol, thus paying the merchant on behalf of the user; and (f) the merchant and a bank cooperating using, for example, the SET protocol, enabling the merchant to securely receive payment from the bank.

In another feature of the invention, the computerized method has the additional step of providing confirmation of payment on the payment order to the user.

In another feature of the invention, the browser is JAVA-enabled and the interactive window is an applet utilizing CGI technology.

An object of the invention is to provide support for fair exchange and anonymity of the user with respect to the merchant.

Another object of the invention is to provide an efficient and secure means of permitting electronic commerce in products which traditionally have not been available electronically, such as insurance products.

5 Another object of the invention is to provide a means for users of Personal Digital Assistants ("PDAs"), mobile phones, or hand-held computers to use such devices to more securely transact electronic commerce.

10 Another object of the invention is to permit the transaction of electronic commerce with maximum security (given available computer resources) within a commercially acceptable time frame.

Brief Description of the Drawings

15 Fig. 1 is a block diagram of the method of the invention.
Fig. 2 is a block diagram of the method of the invention applied in the context of vending travel insurance.
Fig. 3 is a flow chart of the method of the invention.
Fig. 4 is a layout view of an interactive user interface of the method of the invention,
20 applied in the context of vending auto insurance.
Fig. 5 is a layout view of a second interactive user interface used in the method of the invention.
Figs. 6a - 6c are flow charts of the three submethods of the invention.

25 Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

As shown in Fig. 1, a computerized method 10 of improving data security in electronic commerce transacted in an insecure network 12 is provided. The method 10 is particularly suited to network connections 14 (shown in solid and dashed lines)
30 having limited computing resources such as on a user side 16, the side of the network connection to which a user or client 18 connects.

In an insurance context, representing a first embodiment of the invention, the method **10** operates on and between merchants **20a - 20d** who sell insurance and a user **18** which has established a commercial relationship with a trusted third party broker ("TTP") **22** of insurance policies (i.e., an insurance broker). The commercial relationship is established by the user **18** at least to the extent that the user is aware that he is making a payment which will be redirected by the TTP **22**. The TTP **22** is a trusted server which receives and processes requests for information about products or services, such as insurance policies, on the insecure network **12** such as the Internet. The method **10** achieves improved security in payments by splitting the payment into two parts: (1) that associated with the network link **14** between the user **18** and the TTP **22**, and (2) that associated with the network link **24** between the TTP and the merchants **20a - 20d**. The method **10** utilizes protocols which are selected, at least in part, on the basis of the computer resources which may be expected to be available in each network link **14** and **24**.

Because computing resources on the user side **16** of the network link **14** between the user **18** and the TTP **22** are generally limited, the SSL protocol is used. SSL is a simple protocol which does not require extraordinary computing resources of the user **18**. Although the user **18** cannot use the non-repudiation features that otherwise would be available for use with the SET protocol, the user can assure himself of security by verifying the authenticity of the TTP **22**, thus increasing his level of trust in the server of the TTP.

Because computing resources between the TTP **22** and the merchant **20a, 20b, 20c, or 20d** are generally greater than those available on the user side **16**, the SET protocol is used to direct user payments through a server of an appropriate merchant server, e.g., merchant **20d**, and to secure the transaction between the merchant server and its bank **26**. This helps assure the user **18** that payments made by the TTP **22** on his or her behalf will be made with a very high level of security. Further, because the transaction is made through the TTP **22**, the identity of the user **18** need not be

revealed to the merchant **20d**, thus making the transaction untraceable against observers and providing anonymity (with respect to the merchant) in the payment transaction for the user as well. Thus, only the TTP **22** need know the identity of the user **18**.

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The additional security features of user anonymity and untraceability against observers are advantageously utilized in another context, that of an employment search. In this context, the TTP **22** is the employment service or executive search firm, certified by a certification authority, and the merchants **20a - 20d** are the prospective employers. The anonymity and untraceability features are advantageous in job searching where many job-seeker users **18** may wish to remain anonymous until an employment contract is signed. The process of the user **18** sending a payment order as described above is analogous to the job-seeker user sending a CV or resume to a prospective employer. The job-seeker user **18** will send his CV to the TTP **22** through a secure channel using the SSL protocol. The CV will not indicate identifying information of the job-seeker user **18**, such as his name, address, or current place of employment. Thus, negotiations can take place between the three parties while maintaining anonymity of some of the details of the job-seeker user **18**. The TTP **22** then matches the requirements of employers and job-seeker users **18**. Once the match takes place, either the job-seeker user **18** or an employer-"merchant" **20d** will perform a SET payment to the TTP **22** for the service. It should be noted that in this case, a SET payment is made to the TTP **22**. This is different from that of the insurance context described above in which the user **18** makes payment to the merchant **20d** through the TTP **22**.

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In a feature of the invention, a mechanism which enables browsers to verify the "trustiness" of the server is added, thus providing users **18** with a means of verifying that a server of a TTP **22** which claims to be a trusted server is, in fact, trusted. This is accomplished by displaying a unique identifying icon (not shown) when certificates of certain types are received. The identifying icon is registered with a certification authority who is responsible for identifying infringers and maintaining the integrity of the icon. In addition, the TTP **22** itself may serve as a secondary certification authority. The TTP **22** accomplishes this secondary certification role in part by maintaining a list of infringers, merchants **20a - 20d**, and users **18** which have previously misbehaved, e.g., those who have not fulfilled an agreement established after a dispute was resolved. When a particular user **18** (or merchant **20d** in the employment search context) is involved in a transaction, the TTP **22** is able to recognize the user's (or merchant's) signature and then mark the signature with an icon, thus maintaining the anonymity of the payor.

In an alternate embodiment of the invention, as depicted in Fig. 2, a TTP **22'** is resident in a local machine **28** with which a user **18** directly and physically interfaces. The machine **28** includes a housing **30** enclosing a server **32** loaded with data and software necessary to enable the server to act as a TTP **22'**; an X-terminal **34** including a keyboard **36**, the X-terminal communicating with the server, optionally, an Automated Teller Machine subsystem ("ATM") **40** having a card reader **42** to receive and process payments made with a bank card or SMART CARD **44** and a flight ticket reader **46**; and a network device **48** which connects the server to the Internet or other non-private or semi-private network **12**. This machine **28** is particularly applicable for use as a travel insurance machine at an airport, where the merchants are insurance companies **20a' - 20d'**, the TTP **22'** is an insurance broker, and the product is the travel insurance policy. Note that an insurance policy is also widely considered a service. Therefore, the term "product" as used throughout this specification is interchangeable with the term "service" and should not be construed as limiting. This machine **28** thus enables traveller-users **18** to purchase insurance products prior to boarding an airplane. Further, because of its physical characteristics, this machine **28** may be accompanied

by a physical visual device such as a sign **50** to attract the attention of passers-by. Traveller-users **18** may introduce a machine-readable flight ticket **52** into the reader **46** and, for example, the SMARTCARD **44** in the reader **42**, of the ATM **40**. The ATM **40** reads the flight details from the ticket **52** and presents a list of insurance policies and services corresponding to the user's flight using a multimedia browser. Note that an example of a multimedia browser/interactive user interface **110** is shown in Fig. **4**, in the context of vending automobile insurance. Once the traveller-user **18** decides to buy such a product, a digitally signed statement from the selected insurance merchant **20d'** is stored in the SMARTCARD **44** (or in the TTP **22'** in case of using a flight ticket **52** alone), and a payment to the insurance merchant is performed over the network **12**. Use of the machine **28** in this closed system is advantageous because, where the X-terminal **34** interacts with a browser **54**, the user **18** may utilize (1) SSL locally between an X-terminal input or the browser and the TTP **22'**, even if both are in the same machine, and receive anonymity through the use of the TTP, and (2) SET between the TTP and the selected insurance merchant **20d'**. It should be noted that even when the system appears closed, a hacker may still have been able to introduce a virus or a splice which can attack or intercept communications on either network link **12** or **24**; therefore, all intra-process communications are encrypted. Further, the machine **28** can optionally be utilized for enabling the traveller-user **18** to browse and purchase airline tickets at the airport through a TTP. In this case, the merchants **20a'** - **20d'** would be airline carriers.

In the above embodiment, in which the user interface (such as the X-terminal **34**) and the TTP **22'** are located at the same location, a degree of anonymity on the part of the user **18** is lost (as compared to the embodiment in which the TTP is remote from the user interface). In addition, any visual devices **50** provided on site will not be viewable and thus would have no effect on those users accessing the TTP from remote points in the network **12**. However, the advantage of anonymity remains with respect to those observers not physically present at the physical location of the machine **28**.

Referring now to Figs. 1 and 3, the computerized method of the invention includes the following steps.

In an accessing step **100**, the method enables the user **18**, preferably using a
5 JAVA-enabled browser **102** (shown in Fig. 1) and a low resource-intensive secure communication protocol (i.e., a secure communications protocol demanding lesser computer resources than SET), such as SSL, to access the TTP **22** in order to request broker services (JAVA is a trademark, registered to Sun Microsystems, which identifies a programming language designed for creating small program objects for
10 operation in a distributed environment such as the Internet **12**). In this step **100**, where the JAVA programming language is used, a JAVA applet, running on the user's machine, sends the user's request to the TTP **22** (a JAVA applet is a proprietary application program which is usually built into the JAVA programming language). Some of the built-in writing and drawing applets that come with WINDOWS
15 (trademark of Microsoft Corporation) may also be used together with or in lieu of a JAVA applet. Further, other Internet technologies may substitute for these proprietary programs, but standardization of Internet communication makes these programs the practical choice.

In an information gathering step **106**, the TTP **22** gathers information from web
20 servers of the merchants **20a - 20d** which offer competitive products which the TTP believes may satisfy the request of the user **18**. Any gathering process may be used. For example, the TTP **22** may access its own database in which the TTP maintains information about all merchants.

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In a comparing step **108**, the browser **102** presents interactive windows or applets **110** and **112**, shown in Figs. **4** and **5**, respectively, to the user **18** which allows the user to compare differences between the products offered by competing merchants **20a - 20d** and choose between the competitive products. The applet **110** allows the user **18** to contrast differences between similar products offered by the competing merchants **20a - 20d** and choose the most suitable for his or her requirements. The applet **112** also offers a "pay" function **114**. These features are obtained through the use of Common Gateway Interface or "CGI" technology, a protocol for dynamic content on the Internet, to dynamically create HTML pages. CGI technology is well known in the art as a means which allows the creation of web pages on demand while the user **18** is on-line, the creation of such pages being based on information from buttons, checkboxes, text inputs, and other user inputs. These CGI dynamically-created pages can constitute images, sounds, text and almost anything other visual or audio device which can be transferred through the Internet **12**. Such dynamically created pages may also reference other web pages via hypertext. The clicking on this hypertext by the user **18** may generate a frame with the applet displaying a graphic sourced from the server of a particular merchant **20a - 20d**.

In a selecting step **120**, the user **18** chooses between the competitive products, thus selecting a merchant **20d**.

In a first payment step **130**, the user **18** activates the "pay" function **114**, thus issuing a payment order to the TTP **22**. The "pay" function **114** is a part of an interactive window graphical interface or applet **112**. The payment is performed using the applet **112** running on the user's machine which sends the user's sensitive financial information, encrypted with the SSL protocol using the encryption key of the TTP **22**, to the TTP. Because the TTP **22** is a Trusted Third Party, this should present minimal security risk to the user. For example, a payment order form may be created using CGI technology and such may be sent as an applet to the TTP **22**.

In a second payment step **140**, the TTP **22** decrypts the payment information and transmits the payment order to the merchant **20d** using a highly secure payment protocol, thus paying the merchant on behalf of the user **18**. This transmission of credit card information is preferably "tunneled" via a tunnel **134** (shown in Fig. **1**) to the server of the merchant **20d** offering the selected products. "Tunneling" is yet another security protocol which allows the use of the Internet **12** as part of a private secure network, thus creating a virtual private network over the Internet using public lines. This helps eliminate the need of leasing lines for wide-area communication by permitting secure use of public networks. This part of the transaction takes place using the SET protocol.

In a third payment step **150**, the merchant **20d** and an associated bank **26** cooperate, again using the SET protocol, to enable the merchant to receive payments from the bank. In order to perform a SET payment, the TTP **22** encrypts the user's credit card information with the bank's public key. In this way, the merchant **20d** cannot see any financial details about the user **18**—only the bank **26** can decrypt this information. In addition, the TTP **22** verifies the merchant's certificate (identity) of the merchant **20d** and sends its own certificate in the payment order. This payment order is encrypted with the merchant's public key, and therefore, no messages are sent in plain over the network **12**. The merchant **20d** then decrypts the message and sends the encrypted credit card information to the bank **26**. The bank **26** processes the payment order, and issues a positive authorization for payment only if the balance on the bank account of the user **18** allows the payment.

In another feature of the invention, the computerized method **10** includes the additional step **160** of providing confirmation of payment on the payment order to the user **18** prior to delivery of the product purchased. In this step, the merchant **20d** returns a message to the TTP **22** indicating whether or not the payment was successful.

5 The TTP **22** then transmits this information to the user **18**. When the payment is successful, this message can be used to prove legal liabilities, i.e., it can be considered as the receipt of the purchase. This receipt, once signed by all parties involved in the transaction, can be used as evidence in resolving the dissatisfaction of the user **18** with respect to the service received, thus helping guarantee a fair exchange in the electronic
10 transaction. The TTP **22** is now able to return a detailed report to the user **18** about the transaction via the browser **102**.

For the purposes of this application, the descriptive phrase "highly secure payment protocol" is any protocol for which the level of security in making a payment
15 is higher than that provided by a communications protocol used to send payment information between the user **18** and the TTP **22**. The preferred highly secure payment protocol is the SET protocol which provides authentication for each participant and is specifically designed to handle payments-only information such as credit card information. The descriptive phrase "low resource-intensive protocol" refers to any
20 protocol which requires less computer resources than the highly secure payment protocol. The preferred low resource-intensive protocol is the SSL protocol. In addition, for the purposes of this application, "secure" means that the protocol ensures (1) integrity, in that no one can undetectably change the contents of the message, and (2) confidentiality, in that no one can read the content of a message unless it is
25 included in the actual address of the recipient.

The method **10** is enabled through the application of three submethods **200**, **300**, and **400**, each of which controls the interactions of the method on one end of a particular network link **14** or **24** (i.e., from the perspective of either the TTP **22**, the
30 user **18**, or the merchants **20a - 20d**).

Referring now to Fig. 6a, the first submethod 200 controls the interactions between the TTP 22 and the user 18 and between the TTP and the merchants 20a - 20d. This first submethod 200 enables the TTP 22, interfacing with a user 18 on an insecure network 12, to offer the user the ability to browse, compare, and purchase using secure payment facilities irrespective of the level of security in communications between the user and the TTP. This submethod 200 includes the following steps. In step 202, using a low resource-intensive secure communication protocol, the TTP 22 receives a request of a user 18 for information concerning products of interest. In step 204, the TTP 22 gathers the requested information from the merchants 20a - 20d. In step 206, the TTP 22 transmits this requested information to the user 18 via an interactive window 110. In step 208, the user 18 selects a product offered by a merchant 20d and generates a payment order which the TTP 22 receives. In step 210, using a highly secure payment protocol, the TTP 22 transmits the payment order to the selected merchant 20d who may then receive payment thereon, and, subsequently, transmit confirmation of the payment to the TTP. In step 212, the TTP 22 transmits confirmation of payment to the user 18.

Referring now to Fig. 6b, the second submethod 300 enables a user 18 to browse, compare, and purchase products offered by merchants 20a - 20d using secure payment facilities irrespective of the available level of security in communications between the user and the merchants. The second submethod 300 includes the following steps. In step 302, the user 18 uses a low resource-intensive secure communication protocol to transmit requests for information concerning the products of interest provided by the merchants 20a - 20d to the TTP 22. The TTP 22, in turn, accesses this information from the corresponding merchants 20a - 20d using the SSL protocol. In step 304, the user 18 receives such requested information via an interactive window 110 (shown in Fig. 4) configured by the TTP 22. In step 306, the user 18 selects a product offered by a merchant 20d and creates a payment order which is transmitted to the merchant by the TTP 22 using a highly secure payment protocol. The selected merchant 20d receives payment corresponding to the payment order. In

step 308, the user 18 awaits and receives confirmation of payment from the selected merchant 20d or the TTP 22.

Referring now to Fig. 6c, the third submethod 400 enables a merchant 20d to offer products in a forum in which users 18 may browse, compare features of the merchant's products with products offered by other merchants 20a - 20c and purchase such products using secure payment facilities, irrespective of the security in communications between the user and the merchant. The third submethod 400 includes the following steps. In step 402, a merchant 20a, 20b, 20c, or 20d receives a request from the TTP 22 for product information. In step 404, a merchant 20a, 20b, 20c, or 20d provides product information through an interactive window 110 (shown in Fig. 4) over a network 12 to the TTP 22. In step 406, using a highly secure payment protocol, a selected merchant 20d receives a payment order from the user 18 through the TTP 22. In step 408, using a highly secure payment protocol, the merchant 20d obtains payment on the payment order. In step 410, the merchant 20d transmits confirmation of receipt of payment to the TTP 22 who may in turn provide confirmation to the user 18.

The computerized method of the invention is encoded in computer-readable media which operates on, in, and between the servers of the merchants 20a - 20d, the server of the TTP 22 and the PC of the user 18 over network lines 14 and 24. The submethods 200, 300, and 400 described above are encoded in computer-readable media which control a PC, the CPU of an X-terminal 34 or its associated server or host computer such that the appropriate interfaces are generated which facilitate the reception of inputs, and such that outputs are encrypted, reformatted in a form which the recipient can receive, and transmitted in such form.

An object of the invention is to provide support for fair exchange and anonymity of the user 18 with respect to the selected merchant 20d.

Another object of the invention is to provide an efficient and secure means of permitting electronic commerce on products which traditionally have not been available electronically, such as insurance services.

5 Another object of the invention is to provide a means for a user 18 of hand-held devices such as Personal Digital Assistants ("PDAs"), mobile phones, and pocket computers to use such devices to more securely transact electronic commerce. This is possible because, although hand-held devices generally have insufficient processing power to utilize the SET protocol, many such devices have sufficient processing power to effectively use the SSL protocol. The SSL protocol provides adequate security when connecting with the server of the TTP 22. As mentioned above, allowing the TTP 22 to handle the details of the transaction, including payment, using the SET protocol, allows the TTP to act as a proxy for the user 18, thus significantly improving security in conducting the transaction (as compared with merely connecting directly with
10 merchants 20a - 20d using the SSL protocol). Thus, another object of the invention is to permit the transaction of electronic commerce with maximum security (given computer resources) within a commercially acceptable time frame (i.e., short enough to enable all essential parties involved to realize a net benefit from the transaction).

20 Multiple variations and modifications are possible in the embodiments of the invention described here. Although certain illustrative embodiments of the invention have been shown and described here, a wide range of modifications, changes, and substitutions is contemplated in the foregoing disclosure. In some instances, some features of the present invention may be employed without a corresponding use of the
25 other features. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the foregoing description be construed broadly and understood as being given by way of illustration and example only, the spirit and scope of the invention being limited only by the appended claims.

Industrial Applicability

5 A novel and effective method **10** of integrating three security concepts, namely that of a Trusted Third Party, and the SSL and SET protocols is described which allows a user **18** to browse and purchase with a high level of security and anonymity while requiring a minimum set of computer resources of the user, thus permitting the user to participate in electronic commerce using simple hand-held devices such as PDAs, mobile phones, or pocket computers. Such method **10** is industrially applicable to machine or machine-run processes which apply such protocols in the context of commercial electronic transactions.

10

Claims

1. A computerized method of transacting electronic commerce in an insecure network (12), the method (10) improving data security in the insecure network (12) by:

- operating on and between a user (18) which has established a commercial relationship with a certified trusted third party (22), and merchants (20a-20d); and
- utilizing a network link (14, 24) between the user (18) and the trusted third party (22) and a network link (14, 24) between the certified trusted third party (22) and the merchants (20a-20d); and
- utilizing a communication protocol which operates on the network link (14, 24) between the user (18) and the certified trusted third party (22) and
- utilizing a payment protocol, which is more secure than the communication protocol, which operates on the network link (14, 24) between the certified trusted third party (22) and the merchants (20a-20d), whereby
- the reduced security of the communication protocol is improved by the trust to the trusted third party being established via an authentication using a certificate issued by a certification authority.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein a server of the trusted third party (22) which is built into a housing (30) including a terminal interface permits users (18) to select and purchase insurance products of insurance companies at a remote site such as at an airport.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the trusted third party (22) is an employment consultant certified as a trusted third party (22), the merchants (20a-20d) are companies seeking employees, and the users (18) are persons seeking employment.

4. The computerized method of claim 1 comprising:

- permitting the user (18), using a browser (54, 102) and a communication protocol, to access the trusted third party (22) in order to request broker services;
 - the trusted third party (22) gathering information from web servers of the merchants (20a-20d) which offer competitive products which may satisfy the user's request;
 - 5 • the browser (54, 102) presenting an interactive window to the user (18) which allows the user (18) to compare differences between the competitive products and choose between the competitive products;
 - the user (18) choosing between the competitive products, thus selecting a merchant and issuing a payment order through the trusted third party (22) for the benefit of the merchant;
 - 10 • the trusted third party (22) transmitting the payment order to the merchant using a payment protocol, which is more secure than the communication protocol, thus paying the merchant on behalf of the user (18); and
 - the merchant and a bank (26) cooperating using a payment protocol, which is more secure than the communication protocol enabling the merchant to receive payment from the bank (26).
 - 15
5. The computerized method of claim 4 additionally comprising providing confirmation of payment on the payment order to the user (18).
6. The computerized method of claim 4 wherein the communication protocol is the SSL protocol, the payment protocol is the SET protocol, the browser (54, 102) is JAVA-enabled, and the interactive window is an applet.
- 20
7. A computerized method of enabling a trusted third party (22), interfacing with users (18) on an insecure network (12), to offer users (18) the ability to browse and compare information and purchase products, using secure payment facilities irrespective of the level of security in communications between the user (18) and the trusted third party (22), the method (10) comprising :
- 25

- using a communication protocol, presenting a user (18) with an interface from which the user (18) can browse and request information concerning the products of merchants (20a-20d), and compare such information via an interactive window;
 - gathering the requested information from merchants (20a-20d);
 - 5 • using a communication protocol, providing the requested information to the user (18) via the interactive window;
 - upon the user's selection of a product offered by a merchant, receiving the user's payment order;
 - 10 • using a payment protocol, which is more secure than the communication protocol, transmitting the payment order to the selected merchant who may then receive payment thereon, and, subsequently, transmit confirmation of payment thereon to the trusted third party (22) whereby the reduced security of the communication protocol is improved by the trust to the trusted third party being established via an authentication under use of a certificate issued by a certification authority; and
 - 15 • transmitting confirmation of payment to the user (18).
8. The computerized method of claim 7 wherein the user (18) browses using a browser (54, 102) which is JAVA-enabled, and the interactive window is an applet.
9. The computerized method of claim 7 wherein the communication protocol is the SSL protocol and the payment protocol is the SET protocol.
- 20 10. A computerized method enabling a user (18) to browse and compare information and purchase products offered by merchants (20a-20d) using secure payment facilities irrespective of the available level of security in communications between the user (18) and the merchant, the method (10) comprising:
- using a communication protocol, transmitting requests for information concerning
25 the products of interest provided by the merchants (20a-20d) to a trusted third party (22);

- 5
- receiving such information via an interactive window configured by the trusted third party (22) ;
 - upon the user's selection of a product offered by a merchant, creating a payment order which is transmitted to the merchant by the trusted third party (22) using a payment protocol, which is more secure than the communication protocol, the selected merchant then receiving payment thereon, whereby the reduced security of the communication protocol is improved by the trust to the trusted third party being established via an authentication using a certificate issued by a certification authority; and
- 10
- receiving confirmation of payment.
11. The computerized method of claim 10 wherein the user (18) browses using a browser (54, 102) which is JAVA-enabled, and the interactive window is an applet.
12. The computerized method of claim 10 wherein the communication protocol is the SSL protocol and the payment protocol is the SET protocol.
- 15
13. A computerized method enabling a merchant to offer products in a forum in which users (18) may browse, compare the features of the merchant's products with products offered by other merchants (20a-20d) and purchase such products using secure payment facilities irrespective of the security in communications between the user (18) and the merchant, the method (10) comprising:
- 20
- receiving a request from a trusted third party (22) for information;
 - providing product information through an interactive window over a network (12) to the trusted third party (22) ;
 - using a payment protocol, receiving a payment order through the trusted third party (22) from the user (18) who uses a communication protocol;
- 25
- using a payment protocol which is more secure than the communication protocol, obtaining payment on the payment order; whereby the reduced security of the

communication protocol is improved by the trust to the trusted third party being established via an authentication under use of a certificate issued by a certification authority and

- transmitting confirmation of receipt of payment to the trusted third party (22) who may in turn provide confirmation to the user (18).

14. The computerized method of claim 13 wherein the user (18) browses using a browser (54, 102) which is JAVA-enabled, and the interactive window is an applet.

15. The computerized method of claim 13 wherein the communication protocol is the SSL protocol and the payment protocol is the SET protocol.

- 10 16. A computer-readable medium encoded with a computerized method (10) of transacting electronic commerce in an insecure network (12), the method (10) improving data security in the insecure network (12) by:

- operating on and between a user (18), which has established a commercial relationship with a trusted third party (22), and merchants (20a-20d); and
- 15 • utilizing a network link (14, 24) between the user (18) and the trusted third party (22) and a network link (14, 24) between the trusted third party (22) and the merchants (20a-20d); and
- utilizing a communication protocol which operates on the network link (14, 24) between the user (18) and the trusted third party (22) and
- 20 • utilizing a payment protocol, which is more secure than the communication protocol, which operates on the network link (14, 24) between the trusted third party (22) and the merchants (20a-20d), whereby the reduced security of the communication protocol is improved by the trust to the trusted third party being established via an authentication via a certificate issued by a certification authority.

- 25 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the network link (14, 24) between the user (18) and the trusted third party (22) uses a communication protocol such as the SSL protocol and the network link (14, 24) between the trusted third party (22) and the merchant

uses a payment protocol, which is more secure than the communication protocol, such as the SET protocol.

0097753.051101
101150.2526660

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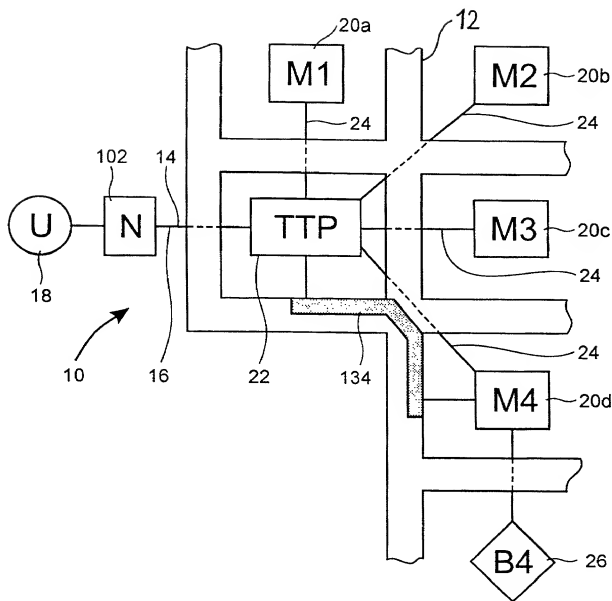


Fig. 1

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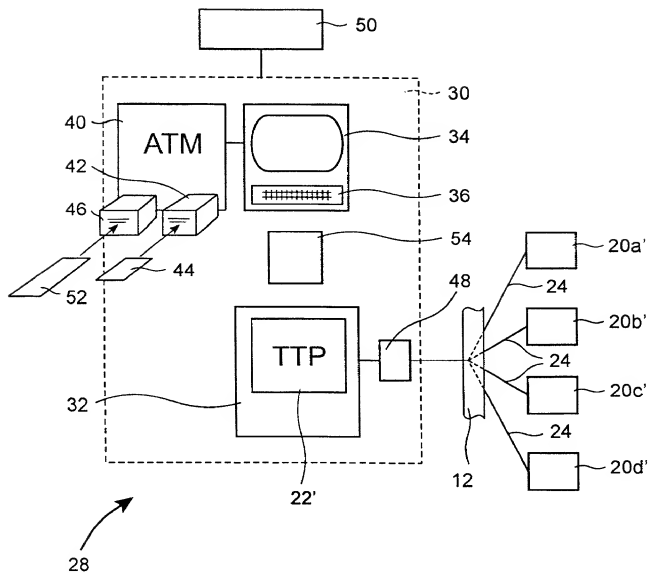


Fig. 2

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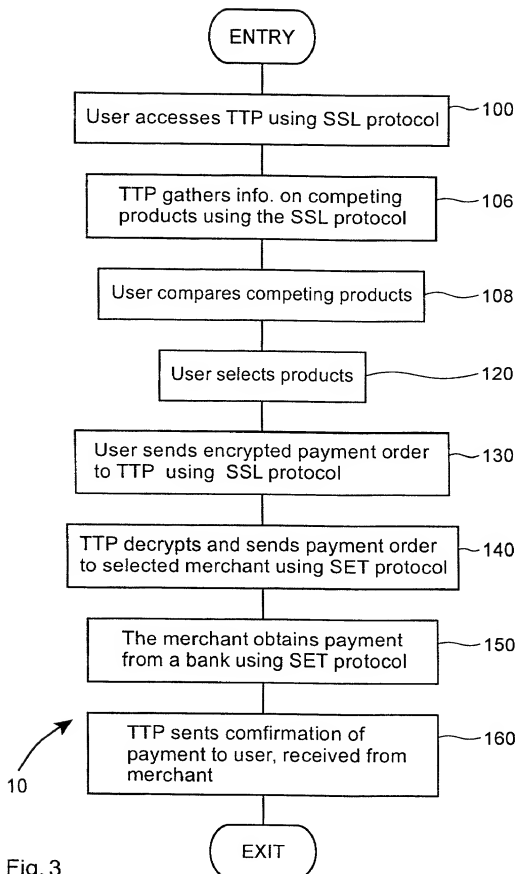


Fig. 3

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Auto Quotations						20a	20b	20c	20d
Feature	Const	Top Comp	Ice Comp	Ice TP++	Ice TP				
Price		400	535	335	235				
Match									
<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Party Liability		+	+	+	+				
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Coverage		+/+	+/-	+/-	-				
<input type="checkbox"/> Theft Coverage		+/+	+/-	+/-	-				
<input type="checkbox"/> Accidental Damage Cover		+	+	-	-				
<input type="checkbox"/> Accident Assistance		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-				
<input type="checkbox"/> 24 Hour Help Line		+	+	+	+				
<input type="checkbox"/> Free Courtesy Car Duri		+	+	+	+				
<input type="checkbox"/> Transport Home After		-	+	+	+				
<input type="checkbox"/> Free EU Car Hire Durin	S	-	35	35	35				
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Guaranteed Re		+	+	+	+				
<input type="checkbox"/> Breakdown Assistance		20/-	30/35/-	30/35/-	30/35/-				
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Assistance		20/-	30/-	30/-	30/-				
<input type="checkbox"/> EU Assistance		-	EU:35	EU:35	EU:35				
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Assistance		+/-	20/-	20/-	20/-				
<input type="checkbox"/> Windscreen Coverage		+/-	+/-	+/-	-				
<input type="checkbox"/> Window Security Etching		+	+	-	-				
<input type="checkbox"/> Claims Handling		+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-				
<input type="checkbox"/> Discounts		+	+	-	-				
						114			
						110			
Sort by Price		Set Feature Constraint	Sort by Feature	Buy Offer					

Fig. 4

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Buying Insurance

You are about to Buy the Following Insurance:

Ice TP ++ from Ice
Total price: 335
Options:
Included:
3rd Party Liability
Car Fire Damage Coverage
Audio Fire Damage Coverage
12 Month new car replacement
Car Theft Coverage
Audio Theft Coverage
24 Hour Help Line

Your credit card data is needed to complete the purchase

Name

Credit Card Number:

Credit Card Expiration Date:

Credit Card PIN:

Hitting the "Buy" button will transmit your data securely
and trigger the purchase

114

112

Fig. 5

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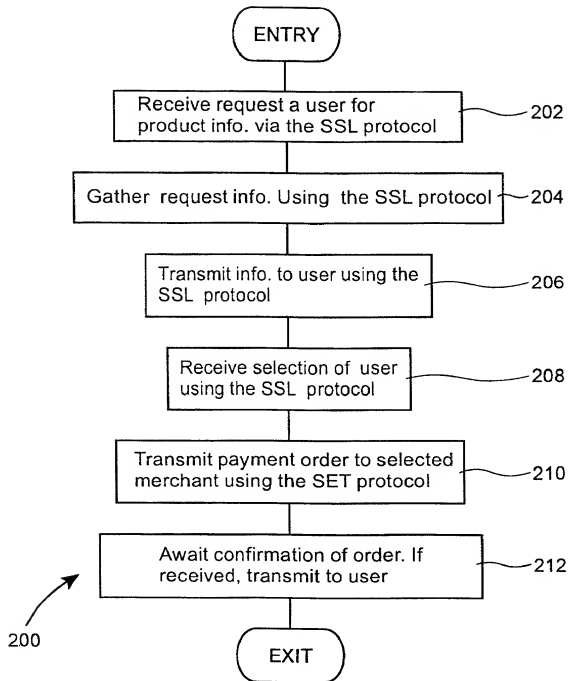


Fig. 6a

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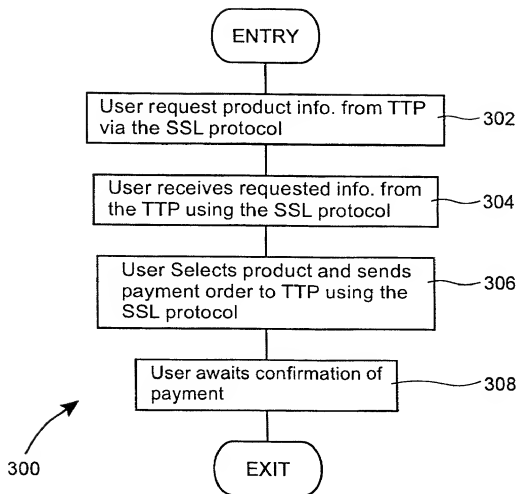


Fig. 6b

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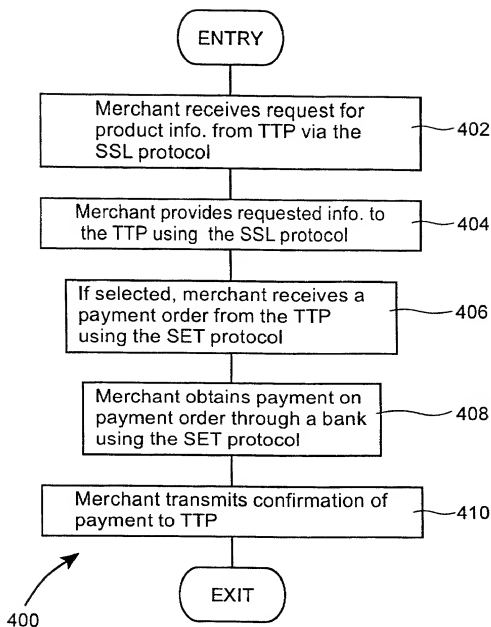


Fig. 6c

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

(CH919980004US1)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

METHOD OF IMPROVING SECURITY IN ELECTRONIC DEVICES

the specification of which (check one)

_____ is attached hereto.

X was filed on 2 September 1999 as International Business Machines Docket No. _____
or PCT International Application No. PCT/IB99/01494 and was amended on 30 November 2000 (if
applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application, having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)	Priority Claimed
<u>98117856.9</u> <u>EP</u> <u>21 September 1998</u>	<u>X</u> Yes <u> </u> No
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)	
_____	<u> </u> Yes <u> </u> No
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)	
_____	<u> </u> Yes <u> </u> No
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)	

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States Application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States, or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to the patentability of this application as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
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(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
--------------------------	---------------	---

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number).

Manny W. Schecter (Reg. 31,722), Lauren C. Bruzzzone (Reg. 35,082), Christopher A. Hughes (Reg. 26,914), Edward A. Pennington (Reg. 32,588), John E. Hoel (Reg. 26,279), Joseph C. Redmond, Jr. (Reg. 18,753), Richard M. Ludwin (Reg. 33,010), Marc A. Erlich (Reg. 39,966), Douglas W. Cameron (Reg. 31,596), Louis P. Herzberg (Reg. 41,500), Marian Underweiser (Reg. 46,134), Stephen C. Kaufman (Reg. 29,551), Daniel P. Morris (Reg. 32,053), Louis J. Percello (Reg. 33,206), Robert M. Trepp (Reg. 25,933), Gail H. Zarick (Reg. 43,303), Robert P. Tassinari, Jr. (Reg. 36,030), Paul J. Otterstedt (Reg. 37,411) and Derek S. Jennings (Reg. No. 41,473)

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Citizenship

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